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These documents shed light on two questions of present interest. First, they point to a considerably larger population for the Philippines at the time of the conquest than the church historians have been willing to give them. Proceeding upon the earliest parish records, they have usually assigned the archipelago a pre-conquest population of one-half to three-quarters of a million. Considering the population reported by Dasmariñas, with large and important portions of the archipelago either unknown or little known, it is certainly impossible to put the figures below a million; these and other data available for the early periods may warrant an extension of this estimate to beyond two millions. The friar historians have assumed that the early parish records included practically all the inhabitants, except those of the mountainous regions and the Moro country, this assumption being based upon the constantly repeated assertion that the friar-missionaries themselves made the early conquests and preceded civil authority in all parts of the archipelago. It is upon this, as a second point, that the facts noted above very plainly bear.

It was in consequence of the representations of the bishop and the governor that the king in 1594 sent out 154 friars and in 1595 110 more. The king's instructions to Tello, the new governor sent to succeed Dasmariñas; the documents relating to the ill-planned expeditions to Siam and Cambodia, where rival rulers were at war, and to the conquests along the Rio Grande of Mindanao; the cautious correspondence of the son of Dasmariñas, temporarily serving as governor, with the great shogun of Japan, Hideyoshi, and the conflicting claims before the king relative to the trade with the orient—these are all matters which, though but hinted at, indicate that these volumes hold interest both for the historian and for the student of current affairs.

There are various photographic facsimiles of the signatures to documents reproduced in the series, and Volume IX. contains also two representations of the coat of arms of the city of Manila in early times and a curious map of Luzon, Formosa, and a part of China by one of the Spanish navigators (1597). Beginning with Volume VI., the succeeding volumes have shown a broader grasp of the work in hand and a better selection of materials. In the lesser details, too, there has been improvement.

JAMES A. LE ROY.

Madame de Montespan. By H. NOEL WILLIAMS. (New York: Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons. 1903. Pp. xii, 384.)

MR. WILLIAMS has followed his life of Madame de Pompadour by the history of another royal favorite. The book is luxurious in form and is embellished by excellent portraits. The paper is of the best quality and the margins are broad. By some subtle association of ideas it seems appropriate to portray the life of a profligate woman in an ornate book. Vice often has a gilded exterior in literature as in life.

Mr. Williams has done his work well. He is familiar with the literature of the period, and in what he says, not only of the heroine of his story, but of Louis XIV. and of the other persons who figured in the

loves of the great king, there is little to criticize. There is, perhaps, less reason for a life of Madame de Montespan than for one of Madame de Pompadour. Whatever were the vices of the Pompadour, she was an important figure in French history; she influenced French policy; she was an uncrowned queen with more power than is possessed by most queens that are crowned. It can be said to the credit of Louis XIV. that while the objects of his affection were numerous, none of them, with the possible exception of Madame de Maintenon, were allowed to interfere with the performance of his duties as a ruler. There is nothing to show that Madame de Montespan had either the ability or the desire for any such rôle, even if it had been possible. She belonged to the worst type of royal favorites. The king was not obliged, in order to bring about her downfall, to exert the personal attractions which he undoubtedly possessed. She sought him instead of being sought, angled for her own seduction, and gloried in her shame. She had no desire to be the secret possessor of the monarch's affections, but wished to be a *maitresse déclarée* and to receive an obsequious adulation not always given to the king's wife; she wanted money and jewelry for herself, pensions and positions for her illegitimate children. She was a lady of ancient lineage and charming manners, but at heart as vulgar as Madame du Barry.

Such as she was, she is fairly portrayed by Mr. Williams. He does not exaggerate her charms, though he does somewhat exaggerate her vices. The book contains a review, not indeed of the entire administration of Louis XIV., but of a portion of it by no means unimportant, the love adventures of that amatory monarch. Not only of Madame de Montespan, but of Louise de la Vallière, Fontanges, and many other favorites of the monarch an account is given. If one desires to read in fair and agreeable form that chapter of the reign of Louis XIV., this work will enable him to do so.

The chief criticism on its historical accuracy must be based on the account which Mr. Williams gives of the connection of Madame de Montespan with the poisoning scandals of the time, to which he attributes her final loss of Louis XIV.'s affection and esteem. The evidence upon which he founds this opinion is found in the Archives de la Bastille, and in attaching importance to it we think Mr. Williams shows that he follows in the footsteps of Michelet rather than of Freeman. Legal training is not without value to a historical writer. If it teaches him nothing else, it teaches him the worthlessness of much of human evidence. Most of the testimony in the la Voisin poisonings under Louis XIV. was of the same value as that given by Titus Oates in the Popish Plots under Charles II. Of the depositions that accused Madame de Montespan, some were given under torture, and we regret to say that Mr. Williams seems to attach weight to statements thus elicited. The most of the story was told by the lying daughter of a condemned woman, who indulged in the device so common among frightened witnesses, of fabricating impossible crimes against persons of prominence. The evidence against Madame de

Montespan was not enough to authorize a jury to convict a habitual criminal of petty larceny.

Louis XIV. was not a man of brilliant mind, but he was a man of good sense. It is not possible that he believed such a farrago of nonsense, or was persuaded that Madame de Montespan had been worshipping Ashtaroth and Asmodeus, indulging in all sorts of nastiness, and plotting all kinds of wickedness. It is not necessary to believe such scandals, or to think that the king believed them, to explain her downfall. We need not place faith in black masses or diabolical conjurations, in order to account for the fact that Louis XIV. discarded Madame de Montespan and clove to Madame de Maintenon. The explanation can be based upon one of the most familiar facts in human experience, that a man grows tired of one woman and becomes enamored of another. Nothing is more common; it required no secret crimes on the part of the abandoned favorite to explain the desertion; it rested not on woman's wickedness, but on man's fickleness. But probably most persons who like to read of royal mistresses and royal scandals want their literary viands highly spiced. The offenses of which Mr. Williams accuses Madame de Montespan are bad enough and mysterious enough to suit the strongest taste for hidden and horrid crime. After all, if the readers of his book think Madame de Montespan somewhat worse than she was, no great harm is done. She was, at any rate, bad enough. JAMES BRECK PERKINS.

The Valet's Tragedy and other Studies. By ANDREW LANG. (London, New York, and Bombay: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1903. Pp. xiv, 366.)

Of these twelve studies three are purely literary, two dealing with the ballads of Lord Bateman and of the Queen's Marie, and the third being an essay on the Bacon-Shakespeare imbroglio. This last is a delightful bit of acute, lucid, and witty criticism; and if the Baconians were but blessed with a shred of humor, Mr. Lang would certainly bring them to reason. Of the remaining essays those which deal with the ghosts of Fisher and Lord Lyttelton possess no historical interest. The "Mystery of James de la Cloche" is of a different character, since James was a supposititious son of Charles II., and since the evidence in support of his paternity establishes the further and much more important fact that Charles was anxious to declare himself a Roman Catholic as early as September, 1665.

The Man in the Iron Mask could not, of course, be omitted from such a collection as this. The Mask was only a valet, according to Mr. Lang. M. Funck-Brentano thought he was an Italian diplomat, and there can be little doubt that he was either one or the other. The general consensus of opinion has been in favor of Funck-Brentano's contention, that the Mask was Mattioli, a Mantuan diplomat. Mr. Lang's arguments are, however, convincing as against Mattioli. The long imprisonment of the valet, Mr. Lang is inclined to think, was the result of "the red tape" of the old régime, a conclusion which recalls Paine's retort to